

North-Central California Coast Technical Recovery Team  
Notes for meeting of 24 October 2001

Eric Bjorkstedt, David Fuller, Carlos Garza, David Hankin, Weldon "Wendy" Jones, Rob Leidy, Rick Macedo, Jerry Smith, Brian Spence, and Miles Croom

Meeting Schedule, Locations, and Conduct:

- The group decided to meet on the second Tuesday of each month, starting in December 2001, and to rotate the location of the meetings between Arcata, Ukiah, Santa Rosa, and Santa Cruz. Using locations throughout the recovery domain will allow more equal opportunity for public access to the meetings, and will spread out the travel burden among TRT members.
- The next meeting is scheduled for 11 December 2001, in Arcata. Following meetings are 8 January 2002 in Ukiah, 12 February in Santa Rosa, and sometime from 18-20 March in Santa Cruz (the latter meeting will coincide with a meeting of the Recovery Science Review Panel in Santa Cruz).
- Meetings will be open to the public, and details will be made available on the Laboratory Recovery Planning website. Efforts will be made to publicize the existence of this website, and the availability of information, but not to advertise specific meetings. Non-TRT members may attend as observers, but opportunity for limited comments will be provided; individuals' time for comments will be limited, but total time should not be.
- Role of Recovery Coordinator (notes from Miles)
  - Serves as liaison between the Science Center/Technical Recovery Team and the Southwest Region; provides policy guidance, and interprets for the Center/TRT how the work of the TRT fits into and promotes "broad-sense recovery" (Robin's term, I believe, for how de-listing criteria are folded into the bigger recovery picture that includes administrative recovery);
  - Participates in and monitors TRT meetings as a non-voting member to understand and stay aware of where the TRTs are in their process; what the issues are; helps to ensure coordination with other recovery processes (e.g., linking TRTs with phase II recovery planning efforts);
  - Provides primary support for outreach/education activities between the public and TRTs, e.g., workshops (as appropriate, or other in-person venues that might involve me, you, and/or members of the TRT), helps to orchestrate public review of TRT work products, ensures that TRT work products are broadly disseminated, generates outreach materials like brochures, fact sheets, etc.
- Substantial discussion developed on the issue of how to deal with scientific disagreement, to express such disagreement, and what level of dissent would warrant inclusion in reports or spur extended analyses based on alternative interpretations/scenarios.
  - The TRT decided against a strong focus on seeking consensus for a number of reasons, including the potential failure of consensus approaches to accommodate and to express uncertainty, and the potential for such approaches to stifle minority opinion, among others.
  - If a TRT member strongly supports an alternative interpretation of data, it will be included in any reports, analyses, etc., produced by the TRT at that member's discretion.

- Some greater level of TRT assent will be required for an alternative interpretation/scenario to warrant parallel, alternative analyses.
- For cases where a decision must be reached between competing alternatives, an assessment must be made, or other similar situations, the group will use a combination of voting systems—a likelihood-point system in which each member has 10 points to distribute among alternatives as they see fit, and a simultaneous, one-person-one-vote system. The former allows individuals to express uncertainty, but may allow one person with a strongly held opinion to sway a decision. (Anonymous) vote distributions will be recorded and retained to examine whether this occurs, and for comparison to single-vote results.
- To the extent possible, meetings, particularly those of workgroups with distantly located members, will be done primarily through conference call. Data and document sharing will use e-mail and the Xerox DocuShare server at NMFS Santa Cruz lab. For greatest compatibility with TRT member's computers, documents will be primarily in MS Word, and data primarily in MS Excel spreadsheets.

#### TRT structure, tasks, and the interests, experience and expertise of TRT members

- Two alternative proposals for how to divide up the tasks of the TRT were put forward
  1. Working groups defined by topic, such as population viability assessment, habitat-population relationships, and population identification.
  2. Working groups defined by species: coho salmon, chinook salmon, and steelhead.
- The group shared descriptions of personal interests, experience and expertise relevant to technical recovery planning. To identify potential working groups, and individuals expected to contribute to a given task, this information was compiled into a matrix of combinations of topic and species (Table 1).
- It was clear that some, perhaps most, TRT members wanted to participate at some level in all tasks—this will be accommodated, but it will likely be necessary for a few people to take the lead on different tasks to achieve goals efficiently.
- No working groups were established explicitly, but this will be considered in future meetings; potential non-TRT contributors were identified.

Table 1: Personally expressed interests in broad TRT task areas, by species

	Population Identification	Population/ESU Viability Analysis	Habitat Issues
Steelhead	Eric Bjorkstedt David Fuller Carlos Garza Rob Leidy Rick Macedo Wendy Jones Jerry Smith Brian Spence	Eric Bjorkstedt David Hankin Jerry Smith	David Fuller Rob Leidy Rick Macedo Wendy Jones Jerry Smith Brian Spence
Coho Salmon	Eric Bjorkstedt David Fuller Carlos Garza Rob Leidy Rick Macedo Wendy Jones Brian Spence	Eric Bjorkstedt David Hankin Jerry Smith	David Fuller Rick Macedo Wendy Jones Jerry Smith Brian Spence
Chinook Salmon	Eric Bjorkstedt David Fuller Carlos Garza David Hankin Rob Leidy Rick Macedo Wendy Jones Brian Spence	Eric Bjorkstedt David Hankin	David Fuller Rick Macedo Wendy Jones Brian Spence

- Immediate tasks & next meeting's agenda
  - A number of tasks were proposed to facilitate assembly of data:
    - Compilation and review of existing, in-house databases, and in some cases, databases nearing completion.
    - Preparation of GIS-derived maps and stream lists for collection of data on species' distribution, barriers to anadromy, etc., via meetings with local experts—to support development of a first-generation, rough hack at population structure.
    - GIS base-layer from Greg Bryant?!?
  - TRT members requested an overview of methods for analyzing population viability for the next meeting; Eric B. will prepare a short presentation on this and send appropriate readings out prior to the meeting.
- Review of potential sources of data, ongoing studies, and individuals that might contribute expertise or knowledge to a working group. A rough list is provided below; please contribute further contacts, correct entries, etc.
  1. Scott Downie (NCWAP)
  2. Emil Ekman (USFS) Mendocino Nat. Forest Watershed Assessment
  3. USFS - Six Rivers Nat. Forest (no specific contact)
  4. KRIS group
  5. Rick Bush-Bernie May (UC Davis) - Navarro River studies
  6. Patty Madigan (NRCS) - Navarro River
  7. Ann Gemar (SJSU student of Jerry Smiths) - San Francisquito Cr. south to Coyote Cr (genetic?)
  8. Humboldt State U - students of W. Duffy, T. Roelofs, etc
  9. Mendocino Redwood Company - HCP in prep.
  10. Jennifer Nielsen (USGS) - Alameda Creek (genetics)
  11. 5-County (salmon sources and barrier info)
  12. Mark Lancaster (coordinator) 4-County (north Bay Area)
  13. California Department of Forestry - Timber Harvest Plans
  14. Larry Preston (CDFG) - Basin planners
  15. Doug Albin (CDFG)
  16. Craig Bell (Mendocino Co Fish Advisory Commission)
  17. Marty Gringax (CDFG - Monterey County)
  18. Kier Associates
  19. Gary Friedmeser (sp?) (Humboldt NRCS)
  20. Chris Adams (Covelo Indian Council) - Middle and North Fork Eel River
  21. Warren Mitchell (Round Valley Tribe) - N. F. Eel River
  22. Dan Logan (NMFS - Santa Rosa) - Section 10 permits
  23. Sonoma State University (genetic)
  24. Dave Anderson (Redwood National Park) - Redwood Cr and estuary
  25. Darren Fong (Golden Gate Nat. Rec. Area) - Redwood Cr (Marin)

- Need for public outreach was discussed. Not so much to get people actively attending meetings, as to let them know what the process is, ways that they can contribute, and what to expect down the line. Perhaps a road-show by NMFS scientist(s) and Miles?

#### Habitat and delisting criteria

- We discussed the role of habitat criteria with respect to delisting criteria. A general conclusion that the fish are the ultimate metric was reached. Habitat issues were acknowledged as critical to recovery, but the existence of trade-offs with other factors affecting salmon and steelhead, such as harvest, was also pointed out. Criteria beyond those that directly address the issue “how many fish, of what type and where?” are to be part of the implementation planning process.
- Note: this discussion was carried further during the Joint TRT meeting, with a proposal of some draft guidelines by the SONC TRT. A draft of some general guidelines will be forthcoming for consideration by our TRT as well.

Joint Meeting of the Technical Recovery Teams for the Transboundary and North-Central California Coast Recovery Domains, 23-25 October 2001, Santa Cruz, CA

Tuesday 23 October

Joint meeting of TRTs to provide introductory overview material

(10:00-10:30) COFFEE

10:30-11:00 Welcome and Introductions (*Pete Adams, Craig Wingert*)

11:00-Noon Overview of Recovery Planning Process (*Robin Waples, Craig Wingert, Eric Bjorkstedt*)

Distinction between Phase I and II: the relationship between policy and science;

Charge to TRTs and Overview of TRT Guidance;

Nature of delisting criteria: biological criteria and thoughts on how to consider habitat in delisting criteria;

Role of the Recovery Science Review Panel (RSRP)

Noon-1:15 LUNCH

1:15-1:45 Overview of the Viable Salmonid Population Concept (*Eric Bjorkstedt*)

1:45-2:15 Overview of Abundance and Distribution Data (*Brian Spence*)

2:15-2:45 Overview of Population Genetics Data (*Carlos Garza*)

2:45-3:00 BREAK

3:00-4:00 Overview of Factors for Decline and Ongoing Recovery & Restoration Activities (*Miles Croom, Greg Bryant*)

4:00-5:00 Discussion (*Tommy Williams*)

Setting the agenda for tomorrow's individual TRT meetings;

Guidelines for discussion of how habitat considerations will be integrated into technical delisting criteria;

etc.

5:00 ADJOURN for the day

Wednesday 24 October

Separate meetings of individual Technical Recovery Teams.

8:15-8:30 COFFEE

8:30-9:00 Overview of personnel and IT support for TRTs (*Eric Bjorkstedt*)

9:00-9:15 Discussion and Preparation for today's TRT meetings (*Tommy Williams*)

Topics that should be covered during the separate TRT meetings include:

- TRT tasks, timelines and products (including discussion of how to [whether to] incorporate habitat criteria in delisting criteria)
- Designation of working groups to attack critical areas (e.g., population identification, habitat-productivity relationships, etc.), including the identification of group leaders and potential external working group participants
- Review of data availability, including alternate sources of data, specific data needs that might be filled in short order, etc.
- Meeting schedules and styles (e.g., frequency of working group and full TRT meetings; frequency and location of face-to-face meetings; use of IT)
- Set time and place for next meetings!!!

These topics are offered as a very rough guideline, and each TRT should develop a loose agenda.

9:15-10:30 Discussion.

10:30-10:45 BREAK

10:45-12:00 Continue discussion.

12:00-12:15 BREAK

12:15-1:30 WORKING LUNCH

1:30-3:15 Continue discussion.

3:15-3:30 BREAK

3:30-5:00 Continue discussion.

5:00 ADJOURN for the day

5:00-8:30 Evening Activity (No-host social at Ideal, at the foot of the Wharf)

Thursday 25 October

Joint Meeting to establish communication between TRTs and to plan coordination and collaboration across TRTs

8:15-8:30 COFFEE

8:30-10:00 Overview of TRTs' working groups and timelines, discussion of mechanisms of communication between the TRTs and between corresponding working groups, and means for insuring consistency and transparency of TRTs' processes and products. Development of a guidance statement on how to incorporate habitat considerations into technical recovery criteria.

10:00-10:15 BREAK

10:15-11:30 Continued discussion.

11:30 ADJOURN